

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCCT-02 AID-20 NIC-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 INR-11 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 PC-10 SY-04 A-01 M-02 OPR-02 SCS-03

SCA-01 SR-02 ORM-03 OC-06 CCO-00 SAM-01 OMB-01 IO-14

ACDA-19 DRC-01 /230 W

----- 057101

R 131425Z AUG 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2802

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

USCINCEUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 0681

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SOCI, ECON, MZ

SUBJ: CIVIL DISORDERS IN NORTHERN MOZAMBIQUE

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 674

SUMMARY: CIVIL DISORDERS ERUPT IN NORTHERN MOZAMBIQUE (NEAR
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NAMPULA). PROBABLE CAUSE: ECONOMIC DISCONTENT AND RESENTMENT

AGAINST NON-AFRICAN SETTLERS AND COMPANIES. PROGNOSTICATION:

ARMY WILL CONTROL THIS "BRUSH FIRE;" OTHERS MAY BREAK OUT ELSEWHERE. END SUMMARY

1. MILITARY HIGH COMMAND ISSUED COMMUNIQUE 44/74 ON AUG 12 "TO DESTROY INSIDIOUS RUMORSPROVOKING UNEASE AND DISQUIETING SPIRITS" REGARDING WAVE OF VIOLENCE AND ANARCHY IN NAMPULA AND MOZAMBIQUE DISTRICTS. COMMUNIQUE VERSION OF EVENTS INCLUDES FOLLOWING:

A. DESTRUCTION OF COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS, STONING OF RESIDENCES AND CARS, CAUSING NUMEROUS WOUNDED AND ONE DEATH (BLACK), IN ANTONIO ENES, MOMA, AND NAMETIL. CALM RESTORED IN AREA BY MILITARY TROOPS.

B. NUMEROUS GROUPS OF VANDALS DESTROYED AND LOOTED CANTEENS, STORES, AND RESIDENCES IN CARRAI, TOCELAS, MUATUA, BOILA, NAMAPONDA, MUVURUTA, MAIOELA, NAMETORIA, CHAIAUA, BARRACA, CALIPO, AND IULUTI. MATERIAL DAMAGES WERE HIGH. SOME WOUNDED BUT NO DEATHS AMONG WHITE AND ASIATIC POPULATION, MAIN TARGET OF ATTACKS. MILITARY FORCES BEING SENT TO AREA TO RE TORE ORDER.

C. IN NAMPULA, REFUGEES FROM ATTACKED AREAS HAVE MOUNTED ORDERLY DEMONSTRATIONS DEMANDING THAT NECESSARY MEASURES BE TAKEN.

D. ON MOZAMBIQUE ISLAND, LIFE IS NORMAL. LAST WEEK, HOWEVER, BLACKS INSULTED MILITARY RESTING ON ISLAND, WHO REACTED AND TEN PEOPLE WERE INJURED IN MELEE WHICH ENSUED.

2. NOTICIAS REPORTS CROWD OF HUNDREDS GATHERED AUG 12 IN FRONT OF DISTRICT GOVERNMENT BUILDING IN NAMPULA SHOUTING "WE WANT PIDE," INSULTING MFA, AND DEMANDING ARMS; DEMONSTRATIONS FORCED CLOSING OF STORES; AND CONSIDERABLE CONCERN EXISTS AMONG BOTH WHITE AND BLACK POPULATIONS IN THE AREA (PARTICULARLY BLACK) THAT RACIAL CONFLCT WILL BREAK OUT AS IN LUANDA.

3. COMMENT: WE DISCOUNT ASSERTIONS (AND MILITARY HIGH COMMAND

DOES AS WELL) BY DEMOCRAT-CONTROLLED PRESS THAT ANTI-FRELIMO WHITE PROVOCATEURS OR REACTIONARIES FROM MALAWI ARE STIRRING UP DISORDERS AND BELIEVE POSSIBLE CAUSES OF TROUBLES ARE:
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UNEMPLOYMENT, LOW WAGES, REVENGE FOR YEARS OF ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION. SINCE WHITES AND ASIANS TEND TO BE THE STORE-OWNERS, MANAGERS AND MONEYLENDERS, AND THUS THE TARGETS OF THE BLACK WORKING CLASS, THE DISORDERS HAVE ALSO TAKEN ON RACIAL OVERTONES.

4. NOTABLE FEATURE OF RECENT DISORDERS IS THAT THEY HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN AREA CONSIDERED "SAFE," WITH NO FRELIMO GUERRILLA

ACTIVITY IN NAMPULA AND MOZAMBIQUE DISTRICTS (ATTRIBUTABLE TO LACK OF SUPPORT OF MACUA POPULATION) AND THEREFORE RELATIVELY FREE OF PORTUGUESE TROOPS. WE BELIEVE SITUATION LIKELY TO CALM DOWN AS MILITARY HIGH COMMAND TAKES NECESSARY STEPS TO INCREASE SECURITY FORCES IN AREA (MORE MILITARY TROOPS, OPVD, AND PSP, ENLARGED BY VOLUNTEERS).

5. SECURITY IN OTHER AREAS, WHERE FRELIMO PRESENCE SIGNIFICANT, IS APT TO BE ENSURED BY FRELIMO-GOP COOPERATION. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY PORTUGUESE MILITARY AND "DEMOCRAT" SOURCES THAT ONE RESULT OF FORMAL CEASE-FIRE ACCORD WILL BE TO GIVE FRELIMO RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY IN RURAL AREAS AND PORTUGUESE ARMY FOR POPULATION CENTERS. SINCE PORTUGUESE ARMY HAS ALREADY BEGUN TO WITHDRAW TROOPS FROM RURAL AREAS TO MAIN URBAN CENTERS, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT FRELIMO FORCES FILL IN SECURITY GAP. IN OUR OPINION, THEREFORE, "ORDERLY TRANSITION OF POWER" (STATE 174175) CAN BE BEST ACCOMPLISHED BY EARLY FORMAL CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT.

6. WE CAN EXPECT SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS TO BLOW UP RECENT INCIDENTS ALL OUT OF PROPORTION.
WALKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROVINCE, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LOUREN00681
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740222-0309
From: LOURENCO MARQUES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740852/aaaabsnf.tel
Line Count: 136
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LOURENCO MARQUES 674
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 MAY 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <27 FEB 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVIL DISORDERS IN NORTHERN MOZAMBIQUE
TAGS: PINS, SOCI, ECON, PORS, MZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005